

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24th June, 2013

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, Galletley, Kelley, C. Taylor and Wright. (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillors L. Hughes, Hutchinson, E.A. Richmond and Vasey. (4)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None (0)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. D. Moyes and Mrs. A. Blackburn (for Mr. Fisher). (2)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Yvonne Coates, Head of Family Support; Janet Walke, Senior Business Officer; and Simon Bishop, Business Modernisation and Projects Manager.

CYP1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 4.00 pm.

CYP3. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd April, 2013.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

CYP4. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13 – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Pursuant to Minute 36/Apr/13, discussion ensued on the establishment of a Task and Finish Review Group, which had been discussed at Monitoring and Co-ordination Group, to undertake a piece of work in relation to the transition from young to adult carers and it was confirmed that the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee would be keen to do some work jointly on this topic.

RESOLVED – (a) That the current status of the work programme be noted.

(b) That a Task and Finish Review Group be established on young carers and two Members of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend.

CYP5. CHALLENGING PERFORMANCE : MAKING A DIFFERENCE – The Senior Business Officer, Resources Group gave a presentation on the Council's Performance Management Framework which was adopted in 2012.

Discussion ensued on the role of Members, particularly Scrutiny Members, in challenging performance across service areas within their remits; the key performance measures which had been identified through service and delivery plans; the monitoring and challenge processes already in place and the remedial action taken following that challenge to address underperformance and improve outcomes for customers; the definition of some of the key PI's; their current performance and the role of this Scrutiny Committee in scrutinising areas of concern within its remit.

Particular reference was made to the statistics in relation to infants totally or partially breastfed as a percentage of all infants and possible links to the work of this Scrutiny Committee on Child Poverty; and requested future statistics to be reported on young carers; the number of obese children in Reception Year; and SEN figures in academies.

RESOLVED - That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Senior Business Officer for her informative presentation and that, where appropriate, any performance information which is available be used to inform any future work programme of this Scrutiny Committee.

CYP6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS –

The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a report (also previously circulated) which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 9th April, 2013, in relation to a number of budget savings proposals which would deliver £2.252 million in 2013/14 and £3.337 million of savings, following full implementation

It was reported that a number of the proposals, which had been approved by Cabinet on 9th April, 2013, related to areas within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee and discussion ensued on whether it wished to undertake any further work at an early stage to identify and scrutinise the potential risks and impacts associated with the proposals or to defer consideration to enable the full impact of the proposals to be assessed at a later date.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this item be deferred to give time for the proposals to be embedded and that any impact be re-assessed at a later date if necessary.

CYP7. EARLY INTERVENTION AND TROUBLED FAMILY – UPDATE – The Business Modernisation and Projects Manager, People Group gave a presentation on the impact of Early Intervention and Prevention Services.

Early Intervention and Prevention Services aim to increase early identification of children and families with additional needs that require a Common Assessment Framework; reduce the number of families who require support from specialist services; use Area based teams; increase Children's Centre registrations; and develop and implement an area model that includes social workers working with children on the edge of care.

It was noted that that there has been a 54 per cent increase of Common Assessment Frameworks and a reduction in contacts to Children's Duty Teams and child-in-need referrals, which is a clear indication that the early intervention work is being successful. There are currently 195 children in our care, based on figures taken on 17 June, 2013 which represents 26 less children in care than 15 months ago.

Discussion ensued on figures in relation to children Not Engaged in Education or Training (NEET) and the impact on NEET figures by the raising of the participation age and the range of providers that will be required in Darlington to engage those young people.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Business Modernisation and Projects Manager for his informative presentation.

CYP8. CO-OPTED MEMBERS – COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the establishment of a Panel of Members to appoint a person to fill the vacancy of Community Representative on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that there is currently one vacancy for a co-opted Member following the resignation of Mr. Bob Egan in April, 2013; there are two places for a Community Representative and the other place is filled by Mr. D. Moyes. Five applications had been received to become a Community Representative and it was agreed that a Panel of three Members of this Scrutiny Committee be established to consider the applications and agree an appointment.

RESOLVED – (a) That approval be given to the establishment of a Panel to consider the applications for a Community Representative and agree an appointment.

(b) That Councillors Taylor and Kelley be appointed onto the Panel and a third Member be sought from the Scrutiny Committee.

(c) That Councillor Taylor be appointed Chair of the Panel.

CYP9. CHILD POVERTY REVIEW GROUP – Submitted – The notes of the meeting of the Child Poverty Review Group held on 15th April, 2013.

RESOLVED – That the notes of the meeting be noted.